

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3157

AN ACT

To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in response to a federally declared disaster area as a result of a disaster.

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To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist State and local employees of the Department in coordination with other disaster agencies in response to a federally declared disaster area as a result of a disaster.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. LIAISON FOR DISASTER EMERGENCIES.**

4 (a) DEPLOYMENT OF DISASTER LIAISON.—The Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture shall deploy disaster liaisons to State
6 and local Department of Agriculture Service Centers in
7 a federally declared disaster area whenever Federal Emer-
8 gency Management Agency Personnel are deployed in that
9 area, to coordinate Department programs with the appro-
10 priate disaster agencies designated under the Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

13 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Disaster liaisons shall be se-
14 lected from among Department employees who have expe-
15 rience providing emergency disaster relief in federally de-
16 clared disaster areas.

17 (c) DUTIES.—A disaster liaison shall—

18 (1) serve as a liaison to State and Federal
19 Emergency Services;

20 (2) be deployed to a federally declared disaster
21 area to coordinate Department interagency pro-
22 grams in assistance to agricultural producers in the
23 declared disaster area;

24 (3) facilitate the claims and applications of ag-
25 ricultural producers who are victims of the disaster

1 that are forwarded to the Department by the appro-
2 priate State Department of Agriculture agency di-
3 rector; and

4 (4) coordinate with the Director of the State of-
5 fice of the appropriate Department agency to assist
6 with the application for and distribution of economic
7 assistance.

8 (d) DURATION OF DEPLOYMENT.—The deployment
9 of a disaster liaison under subsection (a) may not exceed
10 30 days.

11 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

12 In this Act, the term “federally declared disaster
13 area” means—

14 (1) an area covered by a Presidential declara-
15 tion of major disaster, including a disaster caused by
16 a wildfire, issued under section 301 of the Robert T.
17 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

19 (2) determined to be a disaster area, including
20 a disaster caused by a wildfire, by the Secretary

- 1 under subpart A of part 1945 of title 7, Code of
- 2 Federal Regulations.

Passed the House of Representatives November 17,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.